

**NSC BRIEFING**

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**THE DETERIORATING SITUATION IN SYRIA**

**I. Government's Ineffectiveness:**

- A. Weak coalition, caretaker cabinet;  
unable set election date.
- B. Major political parties, though still  
in cabinet, pulling apart.

**II. Possibility of a Coup as Result of  
Governmental Weakness:**

**A. Threat of leftist-military coup:**

- 1. Comes from radical socialist Akram  
Hawrani and military partisans;  
allegedly 300-400 army officers out  
of estimated 2000.



**B. Threat of straight military coup.**

- 1. Because of army dissatisfaction with  
civilian control.

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2. Possible rebels: popular, influential  
assistant chief of staff Malki;

[REDACTED] Captain Hamdan,  
armored brigade commander Amin Abu  
Assaf.

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III. Outlook:

- A. Immediate successful coup possible but  
not probable.
- B. More likely, the situation will continue  
to deteriorate, increasing probability  
of a coup.

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